



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

STATEWIDE ICE FUGITIVE OPERATION NETS 99 ILLEGAL ALIENS

Violent criminals among the arrested in Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville, and Orlando

MIAMI- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that 99 individuals were arrested by detention and removal officers during a weeklong statewide operation targeting alien fugitives, many with criminal convictions for violent crimes.

Operation Clean Sweep is part of an ongoing effort to identify and arrest fugitive criminal aliens that were ordered removed by a federal immigration judge but failed to comply with their lawful orders. Many of those arrested have been in hiding evading law enforcement for years.

The operation was conducted by ICE Fugitive Operations teams in Miami, Tampa, Jacksonville and Orlando.

"Operation Clean Sweep is part of our continued mission to keeping our communities safe by removing dangerous criminal aliens from our streets," said Michael Rozos, field office director for detention and removal in Florida. "Criminal aliens have a very high rate of recidivism and often re-victimize the community in which they reside. By finding and removing these fugitives, we are able to greatly enhance the public safety of Florida, while restoring integrity to our nation's immigration system."

Many of the fugitives arrested during this operation have a history of violent criminal activity that include sexual assault of a child, driving under the influence (DUI), domestic violence, child abuse, assault with a deadly weapon and battery on a law enforcement officer. Some examples of those arrested in this operation are:

Feddy Avila, a 44-year-old national of Costa Rica convicted of assault with intent to commit sexual battery on a minor. Avila was arrested on Sept. 29th in Miami, Florida.

Carol B Sue, a 32-year-old national of the United Kingdom convicted of battery, child abuse, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, strong-armed robbery and burglary with assault. Sue was arrested on Sept. 26th in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Sheldon Ramjattan, a 28-year-old national of Trinidad and Tobago convicted of armed robbery. Ramjattan was arrested on Sept. 27th in Lake Worth, Florida.

George Sandiford, a 52-year-old national of Barbados convicted of aggravated battery with a weapon, battery on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest with violence and child abuse. Sandiford was arrested on Sept. 29th in South Bay, Florida.

Badderdin Jakouch, a 22-year-old national of Saudi Arabia convicted of assault, possession of narcotic equipment, shoplifting, obstruction of a police officer and contempt of court. Jakouch was arrested on Sept. 28th in Jacksonville, Florida.

Michael Anthony Houlker, a 51-year-old national of Jamaica convicted of aggravated battery, sale of marijuana and possession of marijuana. Houlker was arrested on Sept. 28th in Deltona, Florida.

Gregorio Flores-Ramirez, a 27-year-old national of Mexico convicted of carrying a concealed weapon and possession of marijuana. Flores-Ramirez was arrested this morning in Haines City, Florida.

Salvador Ochoa-Reyes, a 49-year-old national of Honduras convicted of domestic battery and assault charges. Ochoa-Reyes was arrested Sept. 25 in Bradenton, Florida.

Candido Silva-Aguilar, a 40-year-old national of Mexico convicted of committing a sexual offense against a child. Silva-Aguilar was arrested on Sept. 28th in Orlando, Florida.

Edward Pinnock, a 44-year-old national of Jamaica convicted of sale of cocaine and re-entry after deportation. Pinnock was arrested on Sept. 28th in Cocoa Beach, Florida.

Operation Clean Sweep is a combined effort between Federal, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies throughout Florida coming together to locate and apprehend fugitives. Participating agencies included: ICE's Office of Investigations, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Hillsborough County Warrants Division, Manatee County Sheriff's Office, Haines City Police Department, and Florida State Parole and Probation.

The arrests made in this operation are a result of ICE's National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP), which is part of ICE's ongoing effort to restore integrity to the nation's immigration system. Last fiscal year, ICE removed a record 160,000 aliens from the country.

The aim of the NFOP initiative is to reduce the number of fugitive aliens in the United States. Fugitives are foreign nationals who have been ordered removed by a federal immigration judge, but failed to comply with those orders. Currently, ICE has 16 Fugitive Operations Teams nationwide which are designed to identify, locate, and apprehend fugitive aliens for removal from the United States. The President's budget seeks \$8.8 million in enhanced funding in FY 2006 to increase the number of Fugitive Operations teams around the country. In fiscal year 2004, there was a 62 percent increase in the number of fugitive aliens apprehended by ICE compared to the previous year.

In addition to the Operation Clean Sweep arrests, ICE's Florida Field office arrested 1,075 fugitive aliens so far this fiscal year. Since these individuals have already been through immigration proceedings, they are subject to immediate removal from the country.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

